

## 156 West Main Street

This home of one of Westminster's early doctors, Francis Butler, is basically a two-story, five-bay flat roofed square with a limb stretching out to the northeast to connect the house with the original separate kitchen(?). Its board and batten exterior is unique in the City, as is its octagonal cupola. Although almost certainly antedating the Civil War, the well-maintained south facade is as dateless a building as exists in the area: its sharp lines could place it in any decade in the last or in the present century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CARR 857  
0704574304

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Home of Dr. Francis Butler

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

156 West Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. William O. Finch

Telephone #:

848-4864

STREET & NUMBER

156 West Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 305

Folio #: 298

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Westminster Bicentennial Celebration

DATE

October 1964

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Carroll County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**☒ EXCELLENT☐ DETERIORATED☐ GOOD☐ RUINS☐ FAIR☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☒ UNALTERED☐ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

In plan, the Leister-Finch House is basically a two-story, 5-bay, flat-roofed square with limbs stretching out to the northeast. Its board and batten exterior is unique in the City, as is its octagonal cupola. Otherwise, its main (south) facade, which looks to the north side of West Main Street (St. Route 32) halfway between that street's intersection with Maryland Avenue and Rush Alley, is traditional. Its nine four-over-four double-hung sash windows are all regularly spaced, and all are simply enframed, have black louvered shutters, and white wooden sills. The windows are placed 5 on the second floor and 4 on the ground floor; these last are evenly spaced, flanking the modern entrance door. The door is enframed by smooth pilasters which support a two-part denticulated entablature, and is approached by a set of three semi-circular steps; simple iron bannisters reach out from the door to the edges of the steps. A simple denticulated cornice tops this wall, and a similar, but smaller scale, cornice tops the octagon. The west facade is blind except for two 6/1 windows, one per floor, towards the south, but the rhythm created by the boards and battens, and by the continuation of the cornice and its dentils, relieves the facade from a tedium, as does the small corbel-capped inside chimney which is placed towards the north. The east facade is much livelier and, in plan, consists of several advancing and receding planes. A small square bay window is located in the south of the east facade, with a pair of 1/1 windows to its east, and a simply-railed balcony above. A porch, also simply-railed and posted, is to that bay window's north; the porch leads to the house by means of a modern glass and aluminum storm door. Beyond this line, created by the window and porch, the house juts out more to the east: this jutting corner has one 1/1 window on each of its edges, i.e., to the south and east. A 6/4 window is located above the eastern 1/1 window on the second floor. A shed-roofed, one-story extension runs the full length of the house's north facade. Its eastern half is in aluminum, its western half takes the shape of a screened-in porch. The eastern aluminum half leads to a square, 3 course common bond hipped-roof outbuilding. The first floor of this outbuilding has one 6/6 window on its south facade, and a 6-light window above on the second floor. The eastern facade is filled with an exterior chimney. Three-step corbelling blends the wall into the roof. The north facade of the addition has a 4/4 window on the second floor and a two-light window below. Three 4/4 windows are randomly placed on the second floor of the main section.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES                      c. 1860                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      Jacob J. Leister

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Although its principal facade is in layout, anything but imaginative, the Leister-Finch house is one of the most singular buildings in Westminster. Although the City does boast a few existing frame structures to counterbalance the prevailing use of brick, it has none which employs an exposed use of board and batten construction. Further, the house broke new ground for its era in using a flat, rather than a gabled roof. Other houses would later abandon the gable roof (particularly ten or fifteen years later in favor of the mansard roof) but it is probable that this is the first. It is certainly the first house concerned with its skyline to such an extent as to create this crowning octagon. The outbuilding, probably an old kitchen or smokehouse, is similarly unique in its fine, tinned-over hipped roof.

Although almost certainly antedating the Civil War, the well-maintained south facade is as dateless a building as exists in the area: its sharp lines can place it in any decade in the last or in the present century.

On April 1, 1858, David Cassell sold this lot to Jacob Leister for \$211.87½ - Carroll County Deed Book 24, Page 144, when Leister sold the place 6 years later, on September 1, 1864, to Francis Butler, he got \$3000 for the lot, which would certainly indicate that the house was then built (31/206). Butler, retaining a life estate, sold to Jane R. Butler on February 25, 1882 (56/370) and her executors, Mathew F. Butler and William B. Thomas, sold to Thomas and wife, Rebecca, on January 12, 1898 for \$2200 (86/143). Mrs. Thomas kept title a dozen years, selling to Joseph O'Farrell on December 28, 1911 for \$2550 (118/386), who sold a year later to Walter Yount (126/177) for \$3450, a nice profit. Yount's heir, Carl E. Yount, sold the place on December 6, 1943 to Samuel L. Bare, Jr. (197/35) who then sold to the Wesley Seminary of the Methodist Church on December 8, 1955 (255/579). The Church sold the place to its present owner on May 14, 1959 in deed 305/298.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being all of lot no. 3 of Isaac Shriver's addition to the City of Westminster as shown on an 1877 plat of the City.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

April

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Westminster

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



CARR-457

CARR 457

156 W. MAW ST. WESTMINSTER

S. Jacale 4/77

C. Weech



77%





77%

F-5

7  
450

CARR ~~450~~

~~450~~

ISL 450 MAIN STAGE  
WATERMETER

SW faucet  
4/77 check

S.S.



42 P.31

(42)

S.S.

P. 29 31

XLBBarn in town behind  
156 West Main street

457



Rear of 156 W. Main St.

CARR-457

52

Westminster Historic District  
Carroll County Maryland  
Christopher Weeks 1978  
Negative at Westminster City Hall

Rear of 156 West Main Street